



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

11th June 2009

Wayne Winchester, Project Director

Since accepting the role as Project Director on Dr John Ottaway's departure approximately 3 weeks ago, I am looking forward to working with all stakeholders to deliver the best outcome for the people of Esperance.

The project is clear in my mind as having 4 key phases – define, clean, validate and monitor.

- Firstly, we must **define** the task to identify the areas requiring cleaning and the standards and protocols which our work will be based upon and measured against.
- Secondly, we must **clean** the identified areas to the pre-established standards and protocols.
- Thirdly, we must **validate** the cleaning that has been undertaken to ensure that the standards have been met.
- Finally, we must **monitor** into the future to ensure that there is no recontamination.

We are very much in the “define” stage of the project at the moment, which is reflected in the progress reports against each of the headings listed below.

Remobilisation Project

An environmental scientist, Jim Malcolm, has been engaged to determine if lead and/or nickel residues in the Esperance town site are being remobilised and if so by what mechanism. The Working Group associated with this project comprises Michelle Crisp (Community Rep), Paul Clifton (Shire of Esperance), Anthony Stuart (DEC), Wayne Winchester and Jim Malcolm. The WG met initially on 26th May and minutes of this meeting will be made available to the Steering Committee. The final report from Jim Malcolm is expected in late June 2009 and will be tabled at the Steering Committee for discussion.

Data Management Project

A database is being developed in conjunction with ESRI Australia and the Department of Health (DoH) to house and spatially link the vast amount of data that will be obtained as part of the data collection stage of the project. The database builds on an existing DoH database and will be made available on the DoH internet web server with restricted access. ESRI Australia is currently scoping customization of the database to adapt it to meet the specific requirements of the Esperance project. The database will house the information that will inform which areas of Esperance will require cleaning and help establish specific work plans for cleaning of individual premises.

Sampling Protocol Project

A Request for Quotation document has been issued to Golders and the Chem Centre, with responses due 11th June 2009. Members from the Sampling Protocols Working Group will



assist in the evaluation of the responses to select the successful consultant to develop the sampling protocols for the clean up project. A recommendation will be taken to the ECRP Steering Committee.

Cleanup Standards for Roof Spaces and Ceiling Voids

The existing cleanup standards that have been recommended by the Steering Committee do not include standards for roof spaces, ceiling voids or external roof services. This is a key area that needs addressing, and work is currently underway to develop appropriate standards for consideration by the Steering Committee.

To help inform the process of establishing an acceptable set of background level standards for roof spaces and ceiling voids in Esperance, samples from approximately 20 Albany residences and from the previously sampled 21 homes in Esperance will be taken on a weight by weight basis ie mg/kg to establish baseline data. Samples will also be taken from roof surfaces at the same time.

Cleaning Procedures

Work is currently underway to develop a set of cleaning procedures to ensure that once the cleaning phase of the project commences, the task is undertaken in a systematic, consistent and verifiable manner... irrespective of how many teams of contractors are employed on the task. The draft Cleaning Procedures will be presented to the Steering Committee for discussion and endorsement.

Communications Plan

Effective communications with the local community, stakeholder agencies and the Steering Committee are a crucial component of the overall project. To ensure that there is a clear and unified understanding of these expectations and protocols, DPI is currently developing a Communications Plan, which will be distributed to the Steering Committee for comment. My aim is to develop a strong, open, and transparent relationship with all stakeholders, built on mutual respect and trust.

OnCue Website

I am very keen to use the OnCue website as a vehicle to display and disseminate informative, relevant and up to date information about the project. Recent initial changes have been made to the site to reflect this desire, with some information added and some removed. Further enhancements will include regular updates from the Project Director and a Frequently Asked Questions section.

Stakeholder meetings

I have had the opportunity so far to meet with many of the members of the Steering Committee, local stakeholders, members of the public and companies wishing to involve themselves in the various facets of the project. I look forward to meeting many more as the project progresses toward our end objective.

Office administration

A new full time Project Manager, Matthew Devenish, will commence in the Esperance office on Monday 13th July to assist with the detailed management of the range of projects associated with the ECRP.